Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : [ ]
221 Central Bldg.

DATE: 6 May 52

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FROM : [ ]
2605 Quarters I

SUBJECT: FBIS History

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Getting into the heart of the matter, as [ ] would say, anent the mentioned points in your note on the FBIS history:

1. A footnote in the history may clear up the discrepancy in the use of FBMS, FBIS, and FBID. You may, if you choose, refer throughout to FBIS in re the following:

Under the original authorization establishing the monitoring organization it was called "Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service." The name "Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service" was adopted after the appointment

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of [ ] in 1942, hence "FBIS". At the time CIG-CIA took us over the FBIS was known to the public, including radio and newspapermen, so a subterfuge was adopted; all overt publications, material published abroad, etcetera, was put out by the "Foreign Broadcast Information Service" (still FBIS, notice) of "The U.S. Government" and, at the same time, official records, correspondence, administrative matters, contracts, etcetera referred to the "Foreign Broadcast Information Division" of the Central Intelligence Agency, or "wheels within wheels." Thus, the anonymity of the FBIS was preserved by calling it a "U.S. Government agency" and the official recognition of it as a division of CIA was recognized in classified correspondence and records by the initials FBID. What, in fact, it amounts to, is a divorcement of operations and administration within the division, at least on paper.

✓ 2. Names, as far as we know, are correctly spelled.

✓ 3. This section (Pages 30-32) was drafted by a graduate radio engineer and I am taking them at face value; as with you, I don't know what the Hell he's talking about.

✓ 4. Latin American coverage-- as originally outlined, I had in mind a section dealing with the physical outposts (San Juan, Kingsville) and another concerning itself with the actual monitoring or program coverage each of these outposts afforded. Thus, while there is a certain amount of duplication, it seems unavoidable if this outline is followed. I have no strong feelings on the matter, however, and you may alter or combine this as you see fit; my only thought is on the continuity.

✓ 5. Wire Service (Page 37)--This 24-hour-a-day wire is a general news and intelligence wire, with the added "specialized" feature of material expressly tailored for Voice of America counterpropaganda needs.
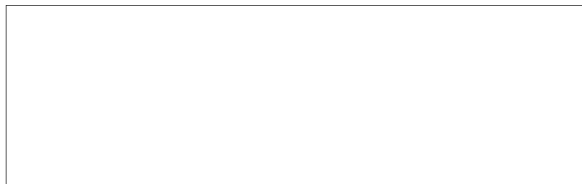
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6. Press Agency Broadcasts-- (Page 42) -- The final sentence could have read: "In this manner it was felt that all of the problems arising would be satisfied in whole or in part, and the procedure, in practice, has proved to be satisfactory to all involved." Incidentally, and for your information, the better informed correspondents are perfectly aware that they are not getting all the information available, but they also realize that they are getting all that legitimately can be released, and no possible future difficulties are foreseen.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion (love that editorial touch) that you have done nothing to harm, and may have helped this little job by tightening it up as you have. I am in agreement with the charts you mentioned, rather than running the necessary statistics in the body. Also, thanks for your word of approval for my 'umble effort.

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Attachment

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO   : AD/OO   DATE: 9 May 1952

FROM : [_____] Historical Staff

SUBJECT: Division Historical Reports

Please find attached a condensed version of the historical
reports submitted by FBIS, FDD, and Sovmat. Page 5 of the FBIS
report has been rewritten in the light of further information
which turned up. The other changes suggested by [_____]
have not yet been incorporated into the draft. If these are
satisfactory, will you kindly return them at your convenience.

13 May '52

Attachment   The revised condensed draft has been approved

by [_____] DAD/O [_____]   000004

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